



1906 – 2006

Carver Theatre Newsletter

August 2014

Thanks to all that attended the AGM this year. Admittedly they are traditionally not the highlight of the year for a community group such as ours, but in my experience the Carver do a better AGM than many societies! The free drink helps too - I'm sure is not the main motivation for people to attend!

Our thanks as always go to the members who have served us over the past year on various committees and to the members that have stepped forward to serve this year. I don't want to single out individuals, but a special mention should go to Geoff Harrison who has agreed to take over as President (and who has had to relinquish his role as auditor in the process) and to Andy Tinsey who will be our new Chairman. Not all committee roles were filled at the AGM so if you have a burning desire to be on the Exec or another committee, speak now to Andy or any of the Exec members!

Attached to this newsletter is a letter of thanks from The Brain Tumour charity who were the recipients of our annual charity cheque which was presented at the AGM.

Registrar's section

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to **Dan Oldman** who many of you will know from his performance in Pack of Lies. In addition to acting Dan would like to get involved in lighting and directing. Please note that Dan has changed his stage name to Daniel Alexander, so if you wish to contact him please check out his new details on the membership list.

Farewells

Sadly we have received notification from John and Debbie Woodruff that they are changing theatres and will not be renewing their membership. They have both made a huge contribution to the theatre over their many years with us, and we wish them all the very best for the future. Rachel Bircher has moved away to university and we wish her every success. Hopefully we will see her again in the future. And finally Jordan Barton who produced the brilliant panto has moved abroad to work.

Thank you

A huge thank you to all those who volunteered to help decorate the foyer, entrance and corridors. Your offer was very much appreciated. As you are aware, it was decided to employ a decorator in view of the tight time constraints.

New members' evening

New Members' Evening – a date for your diary! We wish to invite all members who have joined us during the last season to an evening in the bar at 8.00 pm on Wednesday, 8 October. We hope as many of you as possible will come along to meet the more established members and the executive committee, get to know us a little better and find out a little more about how to get involved. We also hope that as many members as possible will come along to meet them and make them feel welcome.

Production committee update

Dear Carver Members

The Production Committee are shortly getting together to have a meeting to organise this coming seasons plays.

In the meantime, we need a prompt for 'Ladies Day'. Is anyone interested in taking this on, perhaps a new member would like to get involved and get to know other members? Please let me know if you can help.

Rehearsals are going well, and scripts will be down very shortly.

We will also be sorting out the casting for Oh What A Lovely War. There has been a lot of interest in this, but we don't want anyone to be left out because they haven't got around to letting us know of their interest.

If you are keen to be involved in this production, please get in touch.

The play reading for Arsenic and Old Lace directed by Rod Goddard takes place in the Library at the Carver on Wednesday 3rd September. If you are interested but cannot attend please let me know.

There is much enthusiasm for this coming season and it would be nice to see everyone involved if possible. There are parts for everybody.

Regards

Bernice and the Production Committee

production@carvertheatre.co.uk

Treasurer's bits and bobs

Dear Carver Members

Following the recent audit of the year-end accounts one of the things that was particularly noticeable, and giving the auditors sleepless nights, was the difficulty of associating many of your receipts as expenditure on behalf of the Carver Theatre. This is particularly important where we are claiming back the VAT.

Audrey used to say every year that the Carver's name MUST appear on the receipt. Obviously this is impractical for many of the till receipts as there is no facility for the shops etc to do this. Therefore, with the agreement of the auditors, from now onwards I am instigating an expense claim form to enable the receipts to be tied to the theatre. The attached form is to be used for every expense claim. The ONLY exception is where there is a proper invoice made out to the Carver Theatre with the Carver's address on it. If last year is anything to go by, fewer than 1% of the invoices met this criteria. If VAT is charged then the invoice must have the suppliers VAT number on the invoice, otherwise I cannot claim it back.

You can complete the form electronically but I'm afraid you must submit a printed copy with your receipts itemised on the form and duly signed with all the receipts attached. If you would like further clarification please see me in the bar on Wednesday evenings.

I will leave a number of printed expense claim forms in the Treasurers pigeon hole at the theatre if you don't have the facility to print out the attached spreadsheet. I will also put a copy on the Member's Area of the website shortly.

Sorry for the additional bureaucracy but I'm afraid HMRC are quite aggressive when it comes to tax.

Carver rules

There is a revised version on the noticeboard of the theatre containing the rule changes as agreed at the AGM.

Pigeon holes – have been reinstated, and may even have labels on them – have a look next time you're at the theatre!

Miscellaneous

Some 'rules' for directors

1. Always choose good collaborators. The best disagree with you. It means they're passionate, have opinions, and they'll only ever say yes if they mean it.
2. Try to learn how to make the familiar strange, and the strange familiar. Direct Shakespeare like it's a new play and treat every new play as if it were Shakespeare.
3. Learn to say 'I don't know the answer'. It could be the beginning of a very good day's rehearsal.
4. Confidence is essential, but ego is not.
5. Theatre is the writer's and actor's medium. The director comes a distant third.
6. Run a theatre. A play is temporary, a building is not.
7. You're never too old to learn something new. But don't be scared of feeling like a complete twit. It's an essential part of the learning process.
8. There is no right and wrong, there is only interesting and less interesting.
9. 'The journey is the destination' said Peter Brook. Do not think of product or audience response. Think only of discovery and process.
10. Learn when to shut up.
11. When you have a cast of 20 you have 20 other imaginations in the room with you. Use them.
12. Learn to accept the blame for everything. Build up your shoulders – they need to be broad.

And never, ever forget how lucky you are to do something that you love.

Attributed to Sam Mendes.

Dates for your diary

Ladies day, Amanda Whittington	19 th – 27 th September
Oh what a lovely war, Theatre Workshop	7 th – 15 th November
Aladdin, Peter Denyer	9 th – 17 th January
Arsenic and old lace, Joseph Kesselring	27 th Feb – 7 th March
Move over Mrs Markham, Ray Cooney and John Chapman	8 th – 16 th May